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WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Search underway, interim director named

By William H. Perkins
Editor

The search for a new executive director-treasurer for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has begun in earnest with the convening of a search committee and appointment of an interim executive director-treasurer to replace longtime leader Kay Cassibry, who retired at the end of last year.

Marion Duncan, member of First Church, Starkville, has been named chair of the Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

"The committee is comprised of a woman from each of the nine WMU areas in the state and a chairman. To submit a résumé a person should send his/her résumé, or the résumé of someone being recommended, to me as the chairman of the committee," she said.

In the meantime, Rebecca Williams of Madison will serve as interim executive director-treasurer.

Williams, a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison, has served four years as Mississippi WMU president, four years on the WMU Executive Committee, six years on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and two years as a member of the MBCB Executive Committee.

She is presently serving as a trustee of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention,



and assists Mississippi WMU as a specialized worker in the areas of WMU and Women on Mission leadership. She is also director of Women on Mission at Broadmoor Church.

Along with her retired pastor husband Billy, she assists the convention board with promotion of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. The Williamses have two sons, Mark and Matt. Mark resides in Jackson, while Matt and his family serve in Southeast Asia with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"It is an honor to have an opportunity to work in this role for Mississippi WMU, an organization I have served and that I have loved for many years. Mississippi

Baptists and WMU have been so supportive and encouraging to my family and me as we have sought to minister in the Lord's Name, and I consider this a privilege," Williams said. "We are indeed fortunate to have such capable people serving on the search committee to find a new executive director for WMU," said Jim Futral, MBCB executive director. "Af-

ter visiting with them for just a short time, you realize how gifted, thoughtful, and sensitive to the Spirit of God they are as they do their work.

"Additionally, we are blessed to have Rebecca Williams fill the role of interim director until the new leader is found. She brings such a rich background of leadership and will guide the work with wisdom and her magnificent, Christ-like spirit. The Committee is praying, and folks across Mississippi will be praying for them."

According to information provided by Duncan, the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union is responsible for promotion, planning, conducting, and evaluating the missions mobilization, missions awareness, missions education, missions support and missions involvement among women, youth, girls, preschoolers, and co-ed groups in Mississippi Baptist churches and associations throughout the state.

Those applying or being recommended for the position should have four years education at the college/university level, and two to three years education at the seminary level. They should also possess five to ten years of church/denomination experience.

Résumés and other correspondence should be addressed to WMU Search Committee, Marion D. Duncan, Chairman, 277 Cambridge Drive, Starkville, MS 39759. The deadline for receiving résumés is April 30.

Nominees for MBC boards sought

JACKSON, Ms. (Special)

— The 2014 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers of the 178th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2015.

According to Allen Simpson, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Amory, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Children's Village.
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson).
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis).
- Board of Ministerial Education.
- Education Commission.
- Historical Commission.
- Blue Mountain College.
- Mississippi College.
- William Carey University.
- Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
- Mississippi Baptist

see NOMINEES on p. 7



DUNCAN



WILLIAMS

Inside this issue

Directions.....4

Sunday School

Lessons.....7

Editorial.....22

Bible.....22

History.....22

Church.....22

Religion.....22

Home.....22

Health.....22

Education.....22

Arts.....22

Recreation.....22

Travel.....22

Announcements.....22

Calendar.....22

Index.....22

Subscription.....22

Advertising.....22

Copyright.....22

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NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
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March 2-9, 2014

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The 'New Crusaders'

Some time ago, the administrators at Burlington Township High School in New Jersey decided to hold a special emergency drill to deal with the real-world possibility that gunmen could take over the school and hold hostages — or worse. Given the state of our society today and the many actual events like the Sandy Hook massacre in Connecticut and the Pearl High School shootings here in Mississippi, practicing is probably an appropriate thing to do.

"You perform as you practice," Superintendent Chris Manno told the Burlington County Times newspaper when he announced the drill. "We need to practice under conditions as real as possible in order to evaluate our procedures and plans so that they're as effective as possible." So far, so good.

The drill began with two Burlington Township police detectives playing the roles of gunmen. They burst into the school and "shot" students before holing up in a classroom with ten pretend student hostages.

What was the gunmen's scripted grievance against the school? The newspaper reported that they were cast as members of a right-wing fundamentalist group known as the New Crusaders who don't believe in separation of church and state, and one of their daughters had been expelled from school for praying before class.

That's right — of all the deadly threats schools encounter daily and all the terrorist groups intent on inflicting mass casualties on the U.S., school officials in Burlington Township chose Christians and their obsession with school prayer to be the bad guys in this training scenario.

Such is the sorry state of affairs in our country today, when Christians can be painted as "New Crusaders" intent on inflicting death and destruction over school prayer. Concocting such a slander against Christians can apparently be accomplished with impunity.

That's not to say that there aren't far-out groups who create mayhem while illegitimately

claiming to do so on behalf of Jesus. That's not to say the 2000-year history of Christianity is without blemish. It is to say that Christians are plainly not the central threat to our way of life today.

It is also to say — obviously enough — that the ever-growing practice of political correctness in the country forbids using the names and beliefs of the groups that truly threaten our way of life. Thus do terrorists who slaughter women and children become courageous "freedom fighters," while Christians become evil "New Crusaders," and the terrorists are noble while Christians are diabolical.

There is a method to this semantical madness, and it's this: Christians must be discredited as a legitimate force for good if the armies of secularism are to be victorious. That's not a vague philosophical concept to be debated among learned men and women. That's not the paranoid ramblings of the "New Crusaders."

There may be no central clearinghouse for discrediting Christianity, and there may not be an organized nationwide effort to debase our belief system, but it certainly happens on an ad hoc basis and is then parroted by others like school officials planning disaster drills.

Who else stands up for the worth of individuals, the sanctity of human life, the integrity of marriage between one man and one woman, and so many other issues crucial to the future of our civilization? What other group creates such anxiety among the secularists who want to have their way, who want to be able to live their lives with no moral compass and no spiritual anchor?

That's why school officials, Hollywood producers, politicians, and so many others try so hard to devalue Christianity. One particularly effective way to do that is to make us appear to be homicidal nuts in make-believe disaster drills. To at least one school district in New Jersey, that's practicing "under conditions as real as possible."

Chilling, isn't it?

Congrats, Class of 2010

All church planters are special to us, but the church planting Class of 2010 gets some additional attention and scrutiny because in that year we began reporting on Southern Baptist church plants in some new ways.

In 2010, Southern Baptist churches planted a total of 943 new churches. Each of the new churches has a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) identification number which allows for year-to-year tracking as they report through the Annual Church Profile (ACP).

The ACP is a self-reporting tool and not every church responds, but it's the best statistical tool Southern Baptists have right now.

According to ACP, how is the Class of 2010 doing? We think pretty well so far. Here are some key indicators from the 2012 ACP, the last full year of reporting available:

■ **Survival rate.** Of the 943 churches Southern Baptists planted in 2010, 856 (91%) are still in operation.

■ **Membership.** 2010 church plants saw a membership gain of 20% in 2012 over 2011. This is while membership across all SBC churches declined .66%.

■ **Attendance.** Worship attendance also is growing among church plants — an 11% increase in 2012 compared to 2011. At the same time, across all SBC churches, worship attendance fell three percent.

■ **Baptisms.** Planting evangelistic churches is the best way to reach people for Christ. The Class of 2010 reported 3,394 baptisms. Among all SBC churches, there is a ratio of one baptism for



Guest opinion
with Kevin Ezell

every 50 members. For the class of 2010, the ratio is one baptism for every 12 members.

■ **Giving.** We are also encouraged that the Class of 2010 continues to give more each year, including to the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Total missions giving for those churches that reported was \$2.9 million.

We will have a more complete picture after these churches reach the five-year point, but these initial numbers are encouraging and show us that new churches are a key part of reaching people for Christ and expanding God's Kingdom.

Please keep our church planters and their congregations in your prayers. There are still many challenges ahead for them as they push back lostness in difficult places.

Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga.

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God carries Mann through cancer, hurdles to plant Graffiti 2

NEW YORK (BP) — High school student Shamar Smith has been attending the Graffiti 2 Community Ministries after-school program for years.

Raised in the South Bronx neighborhood of Mott Haven, Shamar is no stranger to the lifestyle and perils that mark the lives of many in the neighborhood. His brother is serving a sentence on Rikers Island, New York's primary jail complex.

Had he not found his safe haven at Graffiti 2, Shamar knows his path might have looked the same. "Without Graffiti 2, without Andrew... I don't know where I might have ended up."

Many of the children and families with whom Andrew Mann, pastor and director of Graffiti 2 Community Ministries, works every day have similar stories. Since Mann opened the church and community center doors in 2005, he has seen tremendous growth and influence in Mott Haven.

When Mann planted the church, he was the sole staff member. Now it has grown into a beloved part of the community and includes six full-time staff members (seven, counting Proof, Mann's beloved therapy dog).

The staff all relocated to the area from other parts of the U.S. after serving short-term alongside Mann. Together they host daily after-school programs and tutoring for more than 60 children and teenagers, a weekly fellowship meal and Bible study every Thursday, monthly life skill classes, mentoring programs for teenagers, special outreach events and camps, and weekly Sunday services, all designed to reach the families of Mott Haven for Christ.

"We're a family program," Mann explains. "We work hard to empower the families we serve as a whole. That's really God's mission for our ministry."

Mann's sense of God's mission is what has kept him living in Mott Haven for nearly a decade. The area is home to some 90,000 people — 30,000 of whom are under the age of 18 and subject to a number of risk factors for future struggles. Those factors include poor education, gang violence, and instability in the home.

Despite these hurdles, Mann says there is a real strength to the neighborhood. "There is a strong sense of the value of neighborhood here and a deep rooted community. We may face difficult circumstances in Mott Haven, but God is always working."

Mann is one of six missionaries featured this year by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as part of its 2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion.




RIGHT AT HOME — Andrew Mann stands in front of some of the "trademark" graffiti in the Bronx area of New York City from which Graffiti 2 derives its name. Mann, a North American Mission Board missionary, is one of six Week of Prayer missionaries whose ministries are being featured during the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® promotion. (NAMB photo)

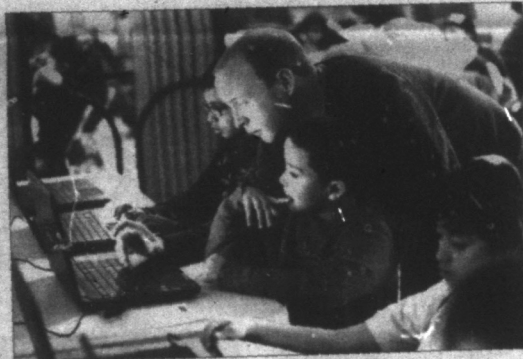
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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 2-9, 2014

Goal: \$70 Million

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 North American Mission Board



OPENING DOORS — Tools like computers for after-school mentoring help North American Mission Board missionary Andrew Mann be more effective in reaching students with the Gospel. Those tools are provided by the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. Mann is one of six Week of Prayer missionaries and serves as the director of Graffiti 2 in New York city's Bronx area. (NAMB photo)

New York City, where Mann serves, is one of 32 Send North America cities NAMB is bringing special emphasis and resources to in its effort to help Southern Baptists start 15,000 new churches in 10 years. Half of NAMB's financial support comes from the Annie offering.

Mann moved to Mott Haven from suburban Missouri after serving alongside missionary Taylor Field and his team at Graffiti in Manhattan. He connected with the church while

attending New York University to pursue a degree in music.

He quickly jumped in, joining the music team his second Sunday in attendance. However, Mann soon made the decision to transfer to Wheaton College in Illinois, subsequently taking him out of the city and away from the ministry of Graffiti.

Even so, Mann says God was preparing his heart for his return to the city one day. "Every step was preparing me for my eventual move to Mott Haven.

When I transferred to Wheaton I started serving in Humboldt Park, a tough part of the Chicago area. God was slowly growing in me a heart for neighborhoods like this, neighborhoods like Mott Haven."

Mann continued to spend time alongside Field and his team at Graffiti, serving two summers there before Field asked the recently-graduated Mann to consider leading the launch of a second campus for Graffiti in the Bronx.

"I spent some time prayer-

walking through Mott Haven after Taylor asked me about launching Graffiti 2. Walking those streets, I really felt a sense of calling to the people there. In that moment I believe God gave me a promise — if I would be obedient to His call to Mott Haven, He would take care of my needs."

Since the launch of Graffiti 2, God has been faithful to that promise. The workload for Mann and his team is heavy, each one taking on a number of responsibilities to keep the church growing and thriving.

Mann does everything from leading worship band practice and Bible studies to preaching Sunday services and mentoring and tutoring students after school each day. "We all really have a sense of calling to this neighborhood and operating out of that calling has really improved our ministry."

"It helps the people in the community really trust us because they know we're here for the long haul and that trust has enabled us to minister to them in totally different ways."

The relationships Mann and his team have built in the community have helped the ministry at Graffiti 2 to flourish. Their dedication to the community didn't miss a beat last year when Mann was diagnosed with cancer. The ministry soldiered on as Mann endured two major surgeries and months of chemotherapy, taking him in and out of work repeatedly over the course of the year.

Now cancer-free and back to work full time, Mann says the experience reminded him of God's faithfulness to not just him but to the people of Mott Haven as well.

"I'm still trying to process all that God showed me during that year, but I know one thing: God is faithful. He called me to Mott Haven, but with or without me, God will continue working to see this community changed in His name because He loves these people even more than I do."

The support of Southern Baptists and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has also given Mann a great sense of encouragement throughout his ministry but in particular through the last year.

"I appreciate so much the prayers of our network of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. The generosity and support they've shown our ministry has empowered us to press on in the work God has called us to do in Mott Haven."

For more information on Andrew Mann and his ministry at Graffiti 2 Community Ministries, visit graffiti2ministries.org. To view a video on Andrew Mann's ministry, visit anniearmstrong.com.

Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). Of course, as always He was exactly right. Untruth, error and lies will bind you up and burden you down. It will mess up your life, mess up your mind and mess up your future, but the truth will set you free. As a youngster, I always dreaded when report cards came out because I knew that I was about to learn and have to face the reality, the absolute truth about where I stood in relationship to the learning process. I also had a sneaky suspicion that in some areas especially it would not be a good thing.

I never quite understood how my parents always knew when the reports were coming out. I did not know that there was a network of understanding and information that parents and school folks shared with each other. When the truth came out and the grades were there on that card, many times things were about to get interesting. Frankly, I did not feel free, but apparently my parents felt free to tell me what was about to happen if I did not buckle down and shape up. **When you know the truth, it can set you free, bless your life and make a difference in your future.**

Recently, I was passing through one of our fine, small Mississippi towns. It was a beautiful, sunny, early spring day. As I drove through the town, I noticed that they had never taken their Christmas decorations down. Not only were the Christmas ornaments still out, but they were still lit. As I was talking with a fellow from that area, I was kind of poking fun and making light of the fact that they still had their



Knowing the Truth

Christmas decorations up, and they were still lit.

It was then that I discovered the truth. There was a good reason as to why they still had their Christmas decorations up. They left them up because the soldiers who had been deployed from their town to Afghanistan did not get home for Christmas. They were leaving them up and burning until the troops came home. What a great thought! What a wonderful, constant reminder to think about those soldiers, to remember them in prayer and look forward to their soon and safe return.

What I thought was somewhat dumb and thoughtless became a wonderful, thoughtful, significant and meaningful symbol with the light of truth shining upon it. In fact, throughout the remainder of the day

and into the week, I kept thinking about the wonderful people in that small town in Mississippi. I thought about the way they were so thoughtful and loving as they anticipated the return of those soldiers who had been sent away to serve.

I also thought about the many people who make fun of that old, ancient book, the Bible, and of the people who read it, love it and listen to what it says because they think that it has no relevance in today's world. They think that their thoughts are far more important than the thoughts of the Word of God. But they do not know that the Bible's truth cannot only set them free but turn their thinking to a place where they will understand that this is a glorious thing.

I thought about how many of the people in our world today make fun of

the church and take lightly the many saints who find their way week after week to join with other people of God in praising the Lord. These people find new strength and encouragement to face life with its difficulties and day by day activities with its uncertainties. They find a new hope and an unwavering confidence and contact with God that will enable them to live. **The truth will set you free, lift you up and fill your heart with joy.**

I thought about the people who question the existence of God Himself and live their lives bouncing from one thing to another trying to keep all the ends of life tied up in a neat little package only to have it come unraveled at one place and then in another or on one day or another. At the same time, they do not recognize that God Himself is standing right at their heart's door waiting to come in, to bless, to forgive, to lead and to undergird them to face whatever life may hold. If they would just trust God and look to His Son and our Savior, Jesus, He stands ready and willing to give them life and life abundant. **The truth will set you free!**

We who have experienced Him in all of His fullness of grace and all of the facets of His incredible love poured out upon our lives need to sing, shout and head off to work, to school, to games or to be with our families with the truth. Not only will it set us free but it can also set free those with whom we come in contact. **Rejoice in the truth and today be a blessing to someone else.**

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 6, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE

MOLD ME AND MAKE ME

APRIL 7-8, 2014

Join us at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center for the Ministry Assistants Conference!

Special Guest Speaker
Janie Walters

Worship Leader
Jason Easley

Deadline to register is
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Contact Cathy Taylor of the Pastor/
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more information at 601-292-3305.

Marriage Celebration EVENING

Friday, April 4, 2014

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center
Patterson Place, Clinton

Special Guest Speaker:
Chris Webb, The Family Coaching Clinic Director

Registration begins at 6 p.m.

Dinner 6:30

Welcome & Program 7:30

Cost: \$10 per couple.

Deadline to register is March 28, 2014.

Patterson Place is available for lodging if you wish to spend the night. The cost is \$100 per couple. No meals are included in this cost. Deadline to register for lodging is March 28. Send payment for lodging and/or conference. Make check payable to: MBCB

Send payment to:

Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept.
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Contact information: Glenn Shows gshows@mbcb.org or 800-748-1651, ext. 373
or Debbie Brashier dbrashier@mbcb.org or 601-292-3284.

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SESSION 2: June 5 - 8 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 3: June 9 - 12 Blue Mountain College

*camps begin on the first day with registration from 2-4 p.m. and ends with breakfast on the last day

CAMP COST: \$175 per person/Deposit of \$50 per person required

PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS OF DEPOSITS AFTER MAY 1
Each church group attending must provide adequate adult supervision. Everyone attending must be part of a registered church group (no individual registrations accepted).

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1 AND ENDS WHEN CAMP REACHES CAPACITY. Churches are not considered registered until deposits have been received.

For Registration Information, contact:
Jo Wasson, 800-748-1651, ext. 216, or jwasson@mbcb.org

For Camp Program information contact:
Ken Hall, 800-748-1651, ext. 286, or khall@mbcb.org

PARENTING/GRANDPARENTING CONFERENCES

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TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

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FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Volunteers must be six (6) years old or older.

Costs: \$25 per individual or

a maximum of \$100 per family (immediate family - parents and their children) Includes: Registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals. (Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing.)

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact the Mid-Delta Baptist Association at midbassoc@bellsouth.net or 662-843-8798.

FamilyFEST is sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association in partnership with Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB). Mississippi Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

SPRING SENIOR ADULT RALLIES

March 11, 2014
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Hattiesburg

March 24, 2014
First Baptist Church,
Tupelo

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry
Dept. at the MBCB at 601-292-3284.

MK RE-ENTRY RETREAT

July 28-August 1, 2014

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, MS



MK [em-kay] noun: Missionary Kid

The MK Re-entry Retreat is for children of international missionaries who are entering college in the United States for the first time. The retreat provides a setting for MKs to process the transition to college and life in the U.S. Approximately 100 students attend this event each year.

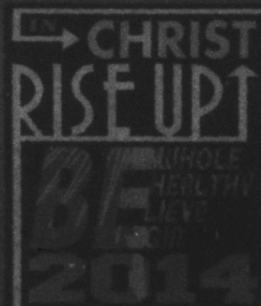
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- Your \$100 donation, which will be used to purchase select school items for your student.
- Your commitment to pray for your student during the MK Re-entry Retreat
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Please contact WMU for an adoption form or for more information.
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Live Webcast
6:30-8:00 PM
Thursday, March 13, 2014**

Is Your Student Bible Study Healthy?

Topics

- The Narrow Window of Opportunity for Reaching Students
- Why Students are Bored with Sunday School/Small Groups
- Reaching the Bar in Your Student Ministry
- Understanding Yourself as a Student Ministry Leader

Leaders

Chris Smith, Student Ministry Training, WMU
Kenny Starnes, Student Ministry, WMU

Following the presentation, there will be small group discussions and you will have the opportunity to ask questions about your student ministry.

Register at www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
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1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284, ext. 204

Pray this day for...

March 7 – March 20, 2014

"None of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled."

Joshua 21:45

Pray for: **John & Amy Puri**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through volunteer coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janina Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and regional office support.

Pray for: **Clay & Jeri Stegall**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Jeanette Taylor**, missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through regional office support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



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www.mnbc.org/adopt

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Peggy Powell at 601-292-3299
or ppowell@mnbc.org

5-1-08
MISS TAYLOR DEWETT
Parents: Ted & Karri
American Peoples

5-16-96
MR MICAH PEACOCK
Parents: Kevin & Brenda
American Peoples

5-1-06
MISS KAMRYN DEWETT
Parents: Ted & Karri
American Peoples

5-18-11
MISS ALANA
Parents: J & M
Restricted

5-3-99
MISS ADRIANN S.
Parents: Jerry & Kelly
Restricted

5-22-00
MISS KATHRYN C.
Parents: J & T
Restricted

5-14-99
MR. JACKSON HOLEMAN
Parents: Jeff & Liesa
South America

5-22-11
MISS SADIE C.
Parents: J & T
Restricted

5/15/09
MR. JUDSON N
Parents: Kith & Susan
Restricted

5-23-01
MISS ANNA CLAIRE
Parents: J & P
Restricted

5-15-96
MR. PATRICK AUSTIN
Parents: Arnold & Susie
American Peoples Group

Mr. J.D.
Parents: D & L
Restricted

5-16-00
MISS ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Peoples

5-24-11
MISS Sarah S.
Parents: J & C
Restricted

5-26-10
MR. CRUZ WHITE
Parents: David & Regina
American Peoples

5/29/03
MR. C. S.
Parents: S & M
Last Frontier

(Belated from March)
4/35/07
MISS ELIZABETH JOHNSON
Parents: Lew & Brandi
Sub-Saharan African People

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PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

HOUSE TOPS

L.A. church planter using 'each sacred moment'

BURBANK, Calif. (BP) — For four years between 2005-09, Iranian house church pastor Ara Torosian faced sporadic yet consistent physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his government. Caught trying to smuggle Bibles into the country, Torosian was constantly being pressured to reveal the identities of other Christian leaders.

"They tried to kill my spirit," said Torosian, now a North Amer-

ican Mission Board church planter in Southern California, "and they are good at it. We decided to leave Iran because of family security and freedom."

Yet the isolation he and his young wife faced during those four years of house arrest and constant surveillance in Iran were by far the worst part, Torosian says, so when Los Angeles pastor Robby Pitt told him when they first met in 2009 that he had

been praying for him, Torosian was overwhelmed with gratitude.

The International Mission Board had encouraged Southern Baptists throughout North America to pray for Torosian during his time of house arrest.

"I realized then that Southern Baptists knew me even before I arrived here," said Torosian, whose American mentor in Iran had been Southern Baptist. "That makes me feel so strong. I found out that Southern Baptists are a big family that cares for each other. It's been a real blessing. I realized I'm not alone."

Torosian is one of six missionaries featured this year by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as part of its 2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion.

Los Angeles, where Torosian serves, is one of 32 Send North America cities NAMB is bringing special emphasis and resources to in its effort to help Southern Baptists start 15,000 new churches in 10 years. Half of NAMB's financial support comes from the Annie offering.

Four years after arriving in Southern California, Torosian's Southern Baptist family has been a key partner in multiple church planting and ministry efforts. In 2010 Torosian started what may be the first Armenian-language Southern Baptist church in the United States.

The growing congregation draws Armenian speakers from a variety of countries and backgrounds including Armenia, Iran, and Russia. Most Armenians consider themselves Armenian Orthodox Christians. Historically, Armenia was the first government in the world to make Christianity its official religion.

Torosian says the official language of the Orthodox Church is ancient and nearly obsolete. Most Armenians know little about the Gospel.

"They talked in a language I didn't understand," said Masis, Torosian's brother-in-law, who came to faith in Christ through the ministry of Armenian Fellowship Church of Burbank. "I didn't know anything about Jesus or His story."

Masis and his wife both gave



PERSECUTED FOR CHRIST — Church planter Ara Torosian (second from right) talks with his friend Alan Minassi (right) at the Americana shopping mall in Glendale, Calif. Torosian and Minassi played on the same professional soccer team in Iran before fleeing the country under persecution. Torosian, a North American Mission Board missionary, planted Armenian Fellowship Church of Burbank and is a Week of Prayer missionary for NAMB. (NAMB photo)

their lives to Christ in the last several years after Torosian had been sharing the Gospel with them for more than 15 years. The couple finally made a decision for Christ after Torosian challenged them to pray for their long-standing desire for children.

When God answered that prayer, they started attending to the Armenian Fellowship Church of Burbank, heard the Gospel, and responded affirmatively to it.

Torosian himself understands the challenge of coming to faith in Christ from an Armenian background. After a high-school injury put a promising soccer career on hold, the teenager began to soul-search—looking at a variety of religious traditions, including Islam, Hinduism and finally biblical Christianity. After committing his life to Christ, he got involved in the growing house church movement in Iran, eventually starting his own house church.

On the way back to Iran from Turkey in 2005, Torosian and some friends were caught trying to smuggle Farsi Bibles into Iran. After three days of extreme physical and emotional cruelty, the government released him but he spent the next two years under house arrest and another two years under constant surveillance.

During those four years, he says, every conversation was carefully monitored, making witnessing and fellowship with others in the house church movement nearly impossible.

"I told my wife, 'This isn't what God called us to do,'" Torosian said. "I'm making a lot of money. I'm giving to the church, but I can't attend church and I can't get involved in ministry. We can't do anything here."

In 2009, Torosian gave up a profitable job in Iran to be a refugee in the United States.

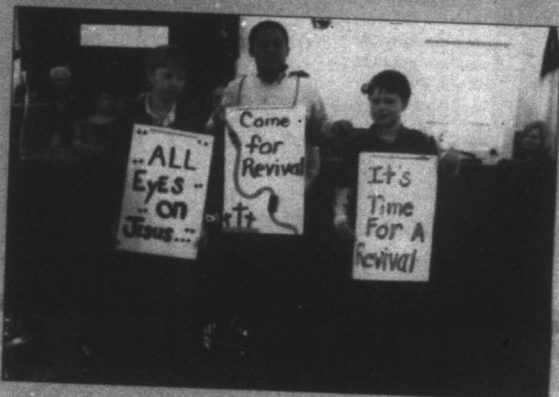
Not long after Torosian arrived in the United States, he started Armenian Fellowship of Burbank with the help of Southern Baptists. His ministry doesn't stop with the church he started. Torosian feels particularly called to reach out to Muslims, which has led to a second Farsi-language church plant in Southern California.

"I know that there are freedoms here — freedom to talk, freedom of religion," Torosian said. "I want to take this opportunity, each sacred moment, to preach the Gospel."

For more information about Torosian and his ministry in Southern California, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, Mar. 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m., followed by short business meeting, 10:50 a.m. and The Revelations in concert; covered dish lunch.
► **Benton Church, Benton:** Revival, Mar. 16 — 18; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. — Tues., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, speaker; Charles Moore, pastor.



PILGRIMS REST CHURCH, BATESVILLE: Revival, Mar. 14 — 16; shown are children making posters each week to hang in the sanctuary.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

GDV NRW HFCQYRE XCFER RWF

XSFNEHCDFD NCD, GDV OFGLLWV RSB

SD NOGVVASDY IACERWN, GDV AGSV

RSB SD G BGDYWF; HWIGQNW ERFWF

OGN DC FCCB XCF ERWB SD ERW SDD.

AQZW EOC: NWPWD

Clue: B = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 30:5

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Sexual Abuse Awareness set April 29

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The Baptist Children's Village, in connection with Morrison Heights Church in Clinton and the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is sponsoring a Sexual Abuse Awareness Training event from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. on April 29 at Morrison Heights Church.

The first session is entitled, "Awareness — What we need to know," and the second session is entitled, "Safety System — What we need to do." Presenters include:

■ Texas attorney Gregory S. Love, co-founder of MinistrySafe and Abuse Prevention Systems.
■ Angie McLeod Williams, director of perma-

nency, planning, and placement for the Division of Family and Children's Services at the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

■ An adult survivor of child sexual abuse, who will share his story of God's grace and healing. (The Baptist Record does not identify victims of sexual abuse.)

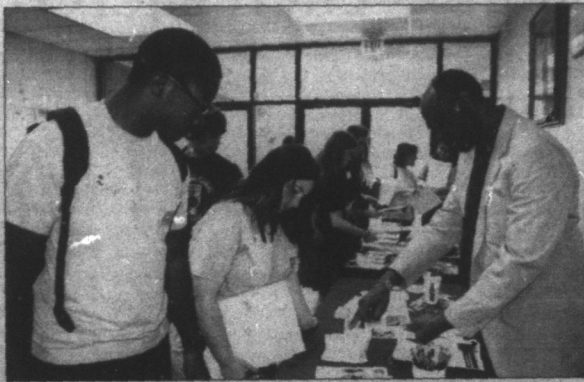
There is no charge for the event, and lunch is included. Registration is required and can be completed on-line at baptistchildrensvillage.com. A paper registration form can be obtained by writing to The Baptist Children's Village, P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027. For more information, call (601) 952-2422.

College News

In other College News:

► **Mississippi College's** 2014 Spring Preview Day is March 22. The event begins with an 8 a.m. check-in that Saturday morning at Nelson Hall followed by a welcome from President Lee Royce, Vice President for Enrollment Services Jim Turcotte, and admissions director Kyle Brantley. Starting at 10 a.m., students will grab seats at a class of their choice. Meanwhile, parents are invited to a series of meetings to ask questions about financial aid, scholarships, student life, campus ministries, residence halls, NCAA Division II athletics and much more. At 11 a.m., students will tour the 22,000-square-foot medical sciences building along College Street. Visitors can find out about student organizations and academic programs and meet with professors at 11 a.m. in Alumni Gym. That's followed by an 11:30 a.m. lunch on the Quad and tours of the Clinton campus. Other events are optional for university guests. That includes the MC Choctaws doubleheader with American Southwest Conference foe LeTourneau starting at noon at Frierson Field. Students interested in joining Mississippi College's equestrian, bass fishing and clay shooting teams are invited to a 1 p.m. open house at Providence Hill Farm. Located 15 minutes from the Clinton campus, the 2,000-acre farm serves as the headquarters for the three squads. For more information, call the admissions office at (601) 925-3800 or go to admissions@mc.edu.

► Threats to Americans' rights of free speech, misuse of the judicial system, and hate speech around the nation will be among the topics explored at the inaugural Unity Summit at the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson March 13-14 conference. Experts will discuss the First Amendment rights of free expression and worship along with the Second Amendment right to bear arms. In addition, conference guests will focus on the seventh Amendment right to trial by jury. The Affordable Care Act's impact on free expression of religion will also be on the agenda. The conference has been approved for twelve Continuing Legal Education credits, including one hour of ethics in Mississippi. It's been approved by the State Bars of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Speakers will include U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania, IRS abuse expert Frank Sommerville and Tupelo trial lawyer Jim Waide. Other guest speakers include attorneys from Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri and Washington, D.C. The Continuing Legal Education fee is \$500. The general admission cost is \$200. The program begins with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast on March 13. For more information, visit www.TheUnitySummit.com or contact the MC Law Continuing Legal Education office at (601) 925-7107.



MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OCEAN SPRINGS, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN. Please send resumes and/or inquiries to 602 Washington Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 or via email to fbcoos@fbcoos.org. Resumes will be accepted through March 31, 2014.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RUNNELSTOWN IN PETAL, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church of Runnelstown, C/O Pastor Search Committee, 9211 Highway 42, Petal, MS 39465.

YOUTH MINISTER-WILDWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLINTON, MS. Please mail resumes to Wildwood Baptist Church, 101 Auburn Dr., Clinton, MS 39056 or email to wbbc@comcast.net.

DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR OR A SEMI-RETIRED MINISTER. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 371 Shelby Dr., Drew, MS 38737.

ROSE HILL FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to 2137 CR. 372 Enterprise, MS 39330 or email: dusty73@gmail.com

ARBOR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, MS. Small, rural church seeking part-time Music Minister. Great starter church. Email resume to: roryvan69@gmail.com or call 662-456-2091.

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IN GRENADA, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Enon Baptist Church, 2604 Carrollton Rd., Grenada, MS 38901. Alt: Pastor Search Committee or e-mail: egonbaptistchurch@outlook.com. For questions call 662-226-0776. Please leave message if no answer.

PONTOTOC FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Please send resumes to Mr. Wally Henry, First Baptist Church, 31 Washington Street, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

STEELE BAPTIST CHURCH IN FOREST, MS, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR/PREACHER. Please send resumes to: Steele Baptist Church, c/o Glyn Edwards, 8977 Hwy 21, Forest, MS 39074 or email to chamell_sharp@aol.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SHANNON (LEE COUNTY), MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 21, Shannon, MS. 38963

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN KOSCIUSKO, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

CENTER TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CANTON, MS, IS SEEKING AN ORGANIST. Contact the church at P.O. Box 78, Canton, MS 39046 or 601-859-4186.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MT. OLIVE, AL, IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Master of Divinity preferred; 5-10 years' experience as Pastor at a Southern Baptist Church. Please submit resumes by mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117. OR e-mail resumes to: Shella@fbmo.org

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@aol.net for information and booking.

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WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S Office of Admissions held a symposium for high school students interested in health care careers on February 19. Representatives from Jones County Junior College Nursing and Allied Health Programs, Pearl River Community College Nursing and Allied Health Programs, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Medical Programs, The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing and College of Health, WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM), WCU School of Natural and Behavioral Science, and WCU School of Nursing were present and led breakout sessions to present information about the programs they offer. Shown are Joseph Wesley, career counselor at Pearl River Community College giving information about PRCC's nursing and allied health programs to (left to right) Matthew Thigpen of East Marion High School and Bethany McKenzie of West Marion High School.

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Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Learn Wisdom's Benefits • Proverbs 1:33; 2:5-12, 16, 20-22; 3:1-8

I do not believe that I have ever met anyone who does not share the dream of having a happy and meaningful life. We desire this wonderful life so much that we make many unfounded assumptions on how to obtain it. Among those many assumptions, we think that money, power, prestige, success, and social status will bring us happiness. Others think that comfort, entertainment, and pleasure will cause us to experience a good life. While in and of themselves, these things are not inherently wrong, the assumption that they will bring us true happiness is! Proverbs is reminding us that it is only through our relationship with God that true happiness and a life full of meaning can be obtained. True happiness is a direct benefit of seeking God's wisdom in our lives.

Security and Protection (1:33; 2: 7-8, 20-22)

As we read through this passage, we must be very careful not to make the assumption that those who believe in God are immune to trials and troubles in life. Every person will have trials in life, but those who practice Godly wisdom in their lives will avoid many of the valleys that people who do not live according to Godly wisdom will experience. Verse 7 tells us that practicing Godly wisdom is like a shield for our lives. When we

choose to live the way God instructs us, we are under His protection now and we can rest assured that we have eternal security because of our relationship with Him through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Discernment and Guidance (2:5-6, 9-12, 16; 3:5-6)

There are many things in our society

today that continue to move farther and farther away from the teachings of the Bible. One of the biggest is in the area of

morality. The idea that anything goes or that there really is no standard of morality is the dominant thought of our world today. Through the teachings in Proverbs we learn that there is a standard, and what we need are discernment to know the standard and guidance to navigate our way through the traps that are set for us. Verses 5-6 tell us that God gives us wisdom and through that wisdom we will understand the "fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God." Armed



Explore the Bible with Huey Dedmon

Wholeness (3:1-2, 7-8)

with the wisdom and knowledge of God we will have discretion, discernment, guidance, and will be rescued from the "way of evil" (v.12). While the moral pathway of many in this present day is on the decline, those who practice Godly wisdom will be able to follow the moral standard God has set.

Chapter 3 begins by exhorting us to not forget our Father's teachings and to keep His commands. Verse 2 says this will bring us a long, meaningful life and it will bring us "well-being" in our lives. The teaching here is not that those who practice Godly wisdom will be free from experiencing health issues; no one is exempt from illness in their lives. The word used here is the Hebrew word "shalom" and is often translated "peace." The basic meaning is "wholeness" or "completeness." In general, those who practice Godly living will be more sound mentally, morally, physically, and spiri-

tually than those who choose not to follow God. This peace or "well-being" is a spiritual condition that helps us live happily even though we experience adversity in our lives, and this is one of the greatest benefits of living Godly lives. It also often presents believers with a great witnessing opportunity.

Right Relationships (3:3-4)

This passage presents us with the admonition to tie "loyalty and faithfulness" around our neck and to "write them on the tablet of your heart." When I wear a tie around my neck, I am constantly reminded that I am dressed up for the particular event I am attending. The teachings of God found in the book of Proverbs are there for our benefit. When we practice them daily in our lives, we are showing others that we love God, and we experience the benefit of the favor of God and man. The relationship we have with God, when lived out in our lives, is a testimony to those around us. Our relationship with God causes us to develop proper relationships with others. When we demonstrate loyalty and faithfulness in our lives, we are able to be more effective in our witness.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

Who We Work For • Ephesians 6:5-9

The deadline for filing your 2013 tax forms is five weeks away. As you gather paperwork for the task, you will see check stubs from your workplace bearing the signature of your boss. If you purpose to obey the teachings of Paul in Ephesians 6, the name of your boss is not Daddy Warbucks. Your boss is Jesus. At home, with family, in church and at the workplace our ultimate authority is Jesus. Keeping Jesus first in all of the arenas of life brings balance and peace. Although the name of Jesus will not appear anywhere on your pay check, the work you perform each day is a clear demonstration of your relationship to Him.

As we discovered last week in the book of Genesis, work is a gift from God, not a curse. Work allows us to join Him in accomplishing the plan of God. Working "from the heart as unto Christ" transforms our jobs into a meaningful part of our worship of God. In clear perspective, "work" is best represented by the word "service."

Ephesus was one of the towns Paul loved dearly. He spent much time there during his ministry years. In Acts chapters 18-20, we read the complete story of his relationship with this beloved church in Asia Minor. As he closed his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul emphasized

the major relationships in our lives: husbands and wives, parents and children, workers and employers. Each relationship was characterized by how each party relates to Christ above all. God established the home and family as a picture of Christ and His church. In the same way, it was the desire of God that we also reflect Christ in the workplace.

The workplace in Paul's day included the institution of slavery. Our purpose

here is not to argue that the bible condones the practice of slavery through this passage of scripture. Truly, slavery is wrong on any level. Our modern day plague of human trafficking stands as proof that the blight of slavery is alive and well. Paul was not approving of slavery. Paul was making sure that those who were slaves were working "from the heart as unto Christ." In the same way, Paul was also encouraging masters to work "from the heart as unto Christ." In Paul's

day there were believers who were slaves and there were believers who were masters of slaves. Can you imagine the joy that would result if husbands and wives and children and workers and employers followed this teaching?

Paul was writing to the Ephesians from Rome as a prisoner for Christ. Paul opens most of his New Testament letters by calling himself a "doulos" which is the Greek word for slave/servant. If we looked at all of life through the lens of servant-hood, we could begin to grasp the true perspective God desires us to possess. I like to think of it this way: every person who serves Christ is a slave to Christ, but a freed slave who serves as a bondservant. A bondservant was a slave who had been set free after prescribed years of faithful service. This slave freely chose to remain in service to his master. The description of a bondservant is found in Deuteronomy 15:12-15.

The bondservant chose to stay because of his love for his master. We were formerly slaves (servants) of our sin. Now, we are free to be servants (slaves) of Christ.

No, I have never met your employer. Maybe he makes the Pharaoh of Egypt qualify to be nominated as Tender-Hearted Man of the Year. I will promise to pray for your strength as you deal with that very difficult situation. Meanwhile, serve "from the heart as unto Christ." Maybe you are unemployed through no fault of your own. Find a place where you can volunteer and continue to use the gifts God has given you until something concrete opens up. Maybe you are the master employer of your workplace. Treat your employees well. You may THINK you are the Top Dog, but even you have a boss in Heaven and He requires end of life evaluation forms for you to complete as well.

In The Revelation 2:1-7, John records news about seven churches. The first one mentioned is Ephesus, these friends of Paul. They had "left their first love." Their first love was Jesus. For us to work as faithful servants, we must always remember who's boss.

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland

Bible Studies for Life

with Becky Brown



dires us to possess. I like to think of it this way: every person who serves Christ is a slave to Christ, but a freed slave who serves as a bondservant. A bondservant was a slave who had been set free after prescribed years of faithful service. This slave freely chose to remain in service to his master. The description of a bondservant is found in Deuteronomy 15:12-15.

NOMINEES

cont. from p. 1

Convention Board.

■ MS Baptist Foundation.

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by

the messengers of the 179th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 28-29, at First Church, Jackson.

For nomination forms, telephone Executive Administration (601) 292-3201 or toll-free (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. Completed forms should

be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Dr. Jim Futral, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, to be received no later than May 1.

Just for the Record



ARLINGTON CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, celebrated the 125 year anniversary for WMU and 100 year anniversary for GAs. Missionaries David and Regina White from Guatemala spoke to the mission groups.



Members of the choir of **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, sang at the Vicksburg Convalescent Nursing Home.



The WMU of **GRACE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, collected their spare change and put it in baby bottles for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Philadelphia, collecting \$450.



ROBINWOOD CHURCH, SAUCIER, honored Ginger McCall for over 10 years as church secretary at their winter banquet. Shown with McCall is pastor Terry L. Upchurch.



COVINGTON-JEFF DAVIS ASSOCIATION sponsored its annual pastors, staff, and deacons banquet Feb. 14. Dennis Swanberg provided entertainment. Shown are Associational Missions Director Tommy Broom, Lynn Broom, and Swanberg.



The children of **CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, presented a Christmas program Dec. 22, 2013, under the direction of Heather Ledbetter, Kim Hargett, and Bailey Walker.

In other Church News:

- **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, will host Squire Parsons in concert Mar. 9, 6 p.m. Love offering.
- The Northeast MS Pastors Conference will be hosted by **First Church, Nettleton**, Mar. 10. Speakers include Philip Caples, pastor, Shiloh Church, Corinth, and David Hamilton, pastor, West Heights Church, Pontotoc.
- **Russell Church, Meridian**, will host Brian Free and Assurance in concert Mar. 16, 2 p.m. Love offering.

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Leadership Training

APRIL 15, 2014 • 6:30-8:00 P.M.



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